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To Whom It May Concern:

For the past year I have been directly involved with the Ironbound Community School. I am an advisor and supervisor to a teacher at the school who is a graduate student at Bank Street College of Education. In the past two teachers at Ironbound have taken courses with me at Bank Street in the area of curriculum development. I have visited the school often and I am familiar with its programs and goals.

I am impressed with the special qualifications of the teaching staff. In an open setting like the one at Ironbound it is essential that teachers understand and apply the principles of clinical teaching. In my experience teachers without such training are in danger of allowing chaos to develop or of designing ineffective lessons which do not enhance learning. At Ironbound the teachers are clinically expert. The key features of this expertise are: the ability to observe behavior of individuals and groups for diagnostic purposes, the ability to design effective learning experiences based on observations, the ability to meet the social, emotional and intellectual needs according to the developmental stage of particular children, and the ability to teach the basic skills of language arts, reading, and math. in an open setting. Beyond these pedagogical skills the Ironbound staff has demonstrated the ability to work effectively with parents and community to develop overall strategies for their children's education both at home and in school.

I consider the Ironbound staff one of the best trained and effective public school faculties I have ever had the pleasure of observing. You should feel proud to have them in the Newark school system. They are making a major contribution to public education.

Respectfully yours,
Peggy Cole
Peggy Cole, Ph.D.
Graduate Faculty